AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 6, 36-41, 44, and 45, and add new claim 48 as listed in the following listing of the claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-5.   (Canceled).

6.   (Currently Amended) A method for executing an interaction flow model, comprising:

receiving an event;

categorizing the received event;

non-deterministically identifying a situation that matches the categorized received event; and

executing one or more tasks for the situation, the execution of the one or more tasks including interpretation of a business domain model to generate a recommendation for a business action,

wherein identifying a follow-up situation considers any feedback provided by a consumer of the generated recommendation.

7.   (Previously Presented) A method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 6, wherein the receiving the event is by way of at least one of a distributed information service, a user interface, and an application interface.

8.   (Original) A method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 6, wherein the categorizing is configured to generate a set of categories for previously handled events.

9.   (Previously Presented) A method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 6, wherein the executing one or more tasks for the situation includes:

invoking one of an optimization engine, an inference engine, and a constraint satisfaction engine to interpret the business domain model, the business domain model including one of a rule base model, an optimization model, and a constraint model;

wherein the interpretation of the business domain model includes at least one of an infer action, a search with constraints action, an interact action, an optimize action, and a decide action.

10.   (Original) A method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 9, wherein the interpretation of the rule base model includes executing the inference engine to act upon the rule base model and produce a number of constraints.

11.   (Original) A method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 10, wherein the number of constraints are communicated to the constraint satisfaction engine, the constraint satisfaction engine being configured to search for a set of objects that match the number of constraints as well as constraints of the constraint model.

12.   (Original) A method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 11, wherein the set of objects are communicated to the optimization engine, the optimization engine communicating with the optimization model so as to produce an optimized object that is recorded, the recording of the optimized object being indicative of the handling of the identified situation.

13-35. (Canceled).

36.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable ~~media~~ medium having program instructions for executing an interaction flow model, comprising:

program instructions for receiving an event;

program instructions for categorizing the received event;

program instructions for ~~non-deterministically~~ identifying a situation that matches the categorized received event; and

program instructions for executing one or more tasks for the situation, the

execution of the one or more tasks including interpretation of a business domain model

to generate a recommendation for a business action,

wherein identifying a follow-up situation considers any feedback provided by a

consumer of the generated recommendation.

37.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media-medium having program

instructions for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 36, wherein

receiving the event is by way of at least one of a distributed information service, and a

user interface, and an application interface.

38.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media-medium having program

instructions for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 36, wherein the

categorizing is configured to generate a set of categories for previously handled events.

39.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media-medium having program

instructions for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 36, wherein the

program instructions for executing one or more tasks for the situation includes:

program instructions for invoking one of an optimization engine, an inference

engine, and a constraint satisfaction engine to interpret the business domain model, the

business domain model including one of a rule base model, an optimization model, and

a constraint model;

wherein the interpretation of the business domain model includes at least one of

an infer action, a search with constraints action, an interact action, an optimize action,

and a decide action.

40.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media medium having program

instructions for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 39, wherein the

interpretation of the rule base model includes executing the inference engine to act

upon the rule base model and produce a number of constraints.

41.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media medium having program

instructions for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 40, wherein the

number of constraints are communicated to the constraint satisfaction engine, the

constraint satisfaction engine being configured to search for a set of objects that match

the number of constraints as well as constraints of the constraint model.

42.   (Previously Presented) A method for executing an interaction flow model

as recited in Claim 6, wherein the received event includes at least one of a business

transaction and a previously identified situation.

43.   (Previously Presented) A method for executing an interaction flow model

as recited in Claim 6, wherein the business action recommendation includes a

recommendation to a customer to obtain at least one of a product, a service, and information.

44. (Currently Amended) A method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 6, wherein ~~non-deterministically~~ identifying the situation includes using a context description corresponding to event concepts required for the situation to occur.

45. (Currently Amended) A method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 6, wherein the [[a]]situation that matches the categorized received event is non-deterministically identified ~~based on feedback from a consumer of the generated recommendation~~.

46. (Previously Presented) A method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 7, wherein the distributed information service receives events via an architected contract.

47. (Previously Presented) A method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in Claim 9, wherein the decide action is a branch in the interaction flow model.

48.   (New) An apparatus having a processor and a memory containing

programs for executing an interaction flow model, which, when executed using the

processor, perform steps comprising:

receiving an event;

categorizing the received event;

identifying a situation that matches the categorized received event; and

executing one or more tasks for the situation, the execution of the one or more

tasks including interpretation of a business domain model to generate a

recommendation for a business action,

wherein identifying a follow-up situation considers any feedback provided by a

consumer of the generated recommendation.